

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC MEETING: Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 6-8 PM, in the Public Meeting Room of the Richmond County Office Building, 101 Court Circle, Warsaw, VA 22572.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) is announcing its intent to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate a federal No Discharge Zone, and is seeking public comment on the draft application.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: This public meeting is to solicit public comment for the designation of Farnham Creek and the portion of Lancaster Creek within Richmond County as federal No Discharge Zones (NDZs). The NDZ designation would ban the overboard discharge of human sewage, either treated or untreated, in these creeks.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: House Bill 1774 resolves that all tidal creeks in Virginia be designated federal No Discharge Zones, and directs the VADEQ to pursue this designation. It is currently illegal to discharge raw sewage in U.S. territorial waters. In a NDZ, this ban is expanded to include sewage treated by on-board marine sanitation devices. This designation is determined by EPA upon application from the states, and is contingent on the states' demonstrating a) the need for enhanced protection of water quality, b) the availability of sufficient local alternatives to overboard discharge (i.e. pump-outs), and c) local stakeholder support. VADEQ is seeking this designation as one component of a "clean-up plan" for small tidal Chesapeake Bay tributaries, which are frequently impaired for shellfish harvest due to elevated levels of fecal bacteria. VADEQ has conducted an analysis of boat traffic and pump-out availability in Farnham and Lancaster Creeks, and concluded that existing pump-out facilities are adequate to service estimated peak-season demand. A draft application to EPA for No Discharge Zone designation has been prepared and is available for public review and comment.

Stream Name	County	Area proposed for NDZ
Farnham Creek	Richmond	All contiguous waters upstream of its mouth at the Rappahannock River
Lancaster Creek within Richmond County		All contiguous waters in Richmond County upstream of its mouth at the Rappahannock River, including Morattico Creek

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by

DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on November 8, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:	Margaret Smigo – TMDL Coordinator	Fax: (804)-527-5106
Address:	VDEQ, Piedmont Regional Office 4949A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA, 23060	E-mail: margaret.smigo@deq.virginia.gov Telephone: (804) 527-5124